

point we need to look at the state allocating an appropriate amount of money for you to pay your teacher salaries. Let the local board bite the bullet on facilities, on administrative costs, on number of teacher aides they want to fund and those kinds of things that are negotiable and can...you can have some control over. But you don't have control over your salaries, and we should recognize that. And as a part of property tax relief, that's what we should be doing. I realize we're in a short session and all of that, but at the appropriate time I hope the body...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...will see fit to deal with that concept, and then we're going to be back revisiting this whole school finance issue. But I thought this was an appropriate time to have a little bit of discussion on that. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. There are no further lights. Senator Maurstad, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate the questions that were asked. I hope that the...I hope that the members took a moment and seriously considered this because it is a serious issue. It's not just a serious issue in my district. I think when everybody examines the school districts in their particular legislative district, they will find that it's a serious issue in their district also. We have aging facilities. There have been doctoral studies done on this in Nebraska that have indicated that we have, to use a metaphor, a ticking time bomb out there relative to liability to school districts in the future to maintain their facilities. We are going to have to address this problem at some point in time, and I hope that we begin today. Operations of schools are funded by property taxes and through state aid, which, of course, is income and sales tax. The development of facilities rests solely on the backs of the property taxpayer. And it is for this reason that I think we should provide a portion, not all, but a portion of the assistance toward bonded indebtedness from state aid, or from a source other than property taxes. The whole issue is one that I hope people keep in mind as we continue to work through how we're going to provide property tax relief and assistance towards how we're going to distribute the funds that the state provides to school districts. And I think